

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 AID-20 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /064 W

----- 004392

R 122030Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5857

UNCLAS CARACAS 9019

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EAID, VE

SUBJ: FAA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1. SINCE NOVEMBER 1971, THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AND THE VENEZUELAN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS (MOP), SPECIFICALLY THE MAIQUETIA AIRPORT PROJECT OFFICE, HAVE HAD A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH MOP HAS REQUESTED FAA EXPERTS TO COME TO VENEZUELA AS TECHNICAL ADVISORS. FAA RECEIVES FULL REIMBURSEMENT FOR ALL COSTS INCLUDING THE EXPERTS' SALARIES AND BENEFITS. A NUMBER OF TEAMS AND INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS HAVE BEEN IN VENEZUELA AND MOP VALUES FAA ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE HIGHLY.

2. THE MAIQUETIA AIRPORT EXPANSION PROJECT HAS NOW REACHED A CRITICAL STAGE AND MOP HAS REQUESTED THE PERMANENT PRESENCE OF AN FAA ADVISOR FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST ONE YEAR. SINCE INTERNAL GOV APPROVAL OF THE ORIGINAL MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT REQUIRED ALMOST A FULL YEAR, MOP HAS REQUESTED FAA COOPERATION IN AMENDING THE ORIGINAL MEMORANDUM INSTEAD OF NEGOTIATING A NEW MEMORANDUM. FAA APPEARS TO BE IN AGREEMENT WITH THIS.

3. THE URGENCY IS ACCENTUATED BY PRESIDENT PEREZ' RECENT ORDERS TO ACCELERATE ALL CIVIL AVIATION PROJECTS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF FURTHER ACCIDENTS SUCH AS THE ONE WHICH OCCURED RECENTLY

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ON THE ISLAND OF MARGARITA.

4. FAA INTENDS TO APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE TO CLARIFY THE POSITION OF THE FAA EXPERT. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE AMENDED MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AS DRAWN UP BETWEEN FAA AND MOP BE USED TO FACILITATE THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BE CONTINUED AND NOT INTERRUPTED. IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF A FORMAL EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE MFA TO CLARIFY THE OFFICIAL STATUS OF THE FAA ADVISOR AND ASSURE THAT HE IS GRANTED FREE ENTRY AND OTHER PRIVILEGES SIMILAR TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY IN VENEZUELA. THE DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORS NOW UNDER NEGOTIATION WITH THE GOV PROVIDES A COMPARABLE PRECEDENT. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE STATUS OF OFFICIAL ADVISORS OF THIS TYPE BE STANDARDIZED INsofar AS POSSIBLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AGREEMENTS, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CARACA09019
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740256-0951
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740953/aaaabsof.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TAGS: EAIR, EAID, VE, US, FAA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005